TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1997

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

On November 25, the Titusville Amateur Radio Club held its annual election of officers and board of directors. The attending club members voted into office the following:

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes, K4CWG
V.PRES: Pike Abell, W4EPU
SECRETARY: Nancy Marsden, KD4ITX
TREASURER: Clyde Lee, K4EOS

BOARD:
Alan Marsden, KC4UUX, reelected
John Renninger, KE4ZPA, reelected
Bob Nedimyer, W4VQB, newly elected
Butch King, AF4FX, newly elected
Les Griner, K4SJC, custodian 146.91 repeater
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ, custodian Packet
Dave McLean, WB4SIG, custodian 444.15 rep.
Warren Murray, AF4EA, custodian 146.97 rep.

Nancy, KD4ITX served on the board last year, and now - thanks to your vote - we are happy to have Nancy as Secretary. To our outgoing secretary Marty, WD4JNM, a big thanks for your great service to your club. The president, vice president and treasurer were reelected. A big welcome to new board members Bob, W4VQB who as you know is a long standing member of TARC, having served as our president in years gone by, and Butch, AF4FX. who is one of the hardest working and most enthusiastic members of our club. I am most pleased with the fine slate of officers and Board of Directors, and am sure they join me in a pledge to do our very best to cause this club to continue to be a fun and enjoyable organization. The installation of officers and board members will take place during the TARC Christmas dinner.

The dinner is being catered by Pumpernickels (an all new menu) and will be held at the Jaycee building on December 20 at 6:00 PM. The cost is $9.50 per person. Please call Sherry, KF4HTC at 269-0779 for tickets. (see page 2)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 2 KF4NSX CHRIS MARSDEN
DEC. 2 NE4XT BILL DIMEO
DEC. 2 WB4ZUZ TERESA VALEK
DEC. 3 KS4FB TED LARRABEE
DEC. 5 KF4AZN KEN WATSON, JR.
DEC. 6 N4LEM RAY KASSIS
DEC. 7 KF4HTC SHERRY HUGHES
DEC. 8 WN4YKC DON HATFIELD
DEC. 8 KE4KCT CHARLES FROST
DEC. 9 KC4VIO JOSE RAMOS
DEC.10 KC4UUX ALAN MARSDEN
DEC.11 KC4UFI JERRY RUSSELL
DEC.11 KB4BHS GLENN LEE
DEC.11 KE4RIV CHUCK MANION
DEC.12 AF4N WES WHITLEY
DEC.15 KF4IGO JUNE FOSTER
DEC.16 N3BSH JOHN MANOS
DEC.16 W0LRC COFFEE COFFMAN
DEC.18 AC4DY TOM BURNS
DEC.18 KF4LTW TOM VICK
DEC.19 W8OFR GENE HALL
DEC.20 KE4MXA NOEL ELLIXSON
DEC.20 KF4QIP MICHAEL ALBRO
DEC.20 KE4MWY DAN CHYCOTA
DEC.21 KD4RLT WILLIAM MERRILL
DEC.24 N4SCY OZZIE OSBORNE
DEC.24 KD4VFQ KAY WATSON
DEC.24 KE4SXU JOAN HOAG
DEC.25 W2STS JESS LEGRAND
DEC.29 KE4EJ SANDY WHITLEY
DEC.31 KF4AZP JOHN EDWARDS

(PRESIDENT ...from page 1)
Our Hamfest was a success and the credit goes to so many. Thanks to all of you for supporting the club's events.

Be sure and schedule the evening of December 6 to assist the Jaycees in the presentation of the Christmas Parade. The Jaycees always depend on us to help get the parade under way. Shannon Daday is the Jaycee parade chairperson. It being her first year to chair this event, she will need all the support and assistance we can give her. If you need transportation or have any questions, please call me at 267-3450. As has been mentioned, this is one way that we can repay the Jaycees for permitting us to use their facilities for our club meetings and other functions. 73's

A HAPPY ENDING

From QST 12/97 "corespondence"

Early this year I wrote a letter telling of how my wife was turned off by ham radio because of the language used on HF (March 1997 "Correspondence"). I was becoming pretty cynical about Amateur Radio, too.

Well, I received literally dozens of letters in response! Many offered words of encouragement and sympathy. Others offered tips on how to avoid the bad apples.

I upgraded to General a few months ago and I'm enjoying the hobby immensely - even 75 meters! I did as you kind-hearted guys suggested in your letters. I ignored the worst and looked for the best. As a result, I found the Southern Country Cousins Net on 3970 kHz, along with the Popcorn Net and the Good Morning Kentucky Net. What a terrific bunch!

I am happy to report I was wrong; ham radio can still be fun. I'm also dabbling in SSTV, RTTY, CW and AM and having a ball. And yes, my wife is revising her opinion of our hobby as well.

Thanks for all the encouragement, especially from John, KE4EWS and Ted, N4XX. *Rick Wallis, KA4VHV, Resaca, GA*

TWELVE THINGS YOU CAN DO

Here are 12 things you can do today to benefit Amateur Radio:

1. Get on the air. Make noise. An unused band is a lost band.
2. Learn something about a mode you've never tried. In my case, it's the digital modes and satellites.
3. You're here to communicate. When someone asks, "Is that a CB radio?" explain what it really is, what you can do with it, and why one would use it.
4. Upgrade, if possible.
5. Go mobile. Make yourself visible. I receive a lot of weird looks when people see the 13-foot tall antenna on my car. But when I ask, "Would you like to know what that monster antenna is for?" they usually say "yes, but I was afraid to ask."
6. Try some outdoor events; some friends and I did QRP Afield, a type of QRP Field Day. We put up a 20-foot continuously loaded whip on a 32-foot mast in the middle of a field. No fewer than a dozen people, including a bunch of 12 - 14 year olds, came by to take a look.
7. Lose your shyness about our hobby. Most people these days are clueless about ham radio. Be a ham radio emissary. Be their first exposure to radio, so they can develop some positive ideas about hams before someone else gets to them.
8. Make a contact on HF SSB in front of a crowd of kids. They do think it's cool (trust me)! Hand 'em the mike and see if they're impressed!
9. Explain how repeaters work and who can "own" or construct one. Do an on-the-air demo. Explain how we use satellites, and even bounce signals off the moon.
10. If possible, make a CW contact for the same group of kids. Remember that CW is mysterious to most people - and that's its attraction. Play the mystery for all its worth, then show them how to "solve" it.
11. Do public service events and wear your call-sign badge proudly. Crank up the volume on your HT!
12. Talk enthusiastically to new hams. Your attitude goes a long way toward forming their impressions. *Scott Rosenfeld, NF31, Burtonsville, MD*

FCC OPENS VANITY GATE 4!

From 12/97 QST "Happenings"

The FCC has announced that vanity call sign Gate 4 - the last vanity gate - will open December 2, 1997, for General, Tech Plus, Technician and Novice class hams to request a vanity call sign.

Applicants may use either the electronic Forms 610V and 159 on the Web or hard-copy Form 610V and 159 - but not both. Both versions - plus fact sheets and answers to frequently asked question are available at http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur. The application fee is $50, payable by check (to "FCC"), bank draft, money order or credit card. Do not send cash. The FCC gives processing priority to electronically filed Forms 510V for which the filing fee and Form 159 have been received.

It's up to applicants to make sure that their applications do not arrive before December 2, 1997. The FCC will return all applications that arrive early.

Any call sign requested must be appropriate for your license class. Technician, Tech Plus, and General class licensees may ask for a Group C (1x3) or D (2x3) call sign. Novice class licensees may request only Group D call signs.

Electronic filers must mail the Form 159 Fee Remittance Advice to: FCC, Amateur Vanity, PO Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5994. The Form 159 and the fee must be received within 10 days of electronically filing your Form 610V or your application will be dismissed.

Those filing on document forms must mail the application package containing a completed Form 610V with a copy of your license attached, Form 159, and the proper fee in a sealed envelope to: FCC, Amateur Vanity, PO Box 358924, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924.

Application packages via courier or delivered by hand must be prepared in the same way, sealed in a second, outer envelope and addressed to: Federal Communications Commission, % Mellon Bank, 525 William Penn Way, 27th floor, Room 153-2713, Pittsburgh, PA 15259, ATTN: Wholesale Lockbox Shift Supervisor.

For general information, call the FCC's toll-free National Call Center, 888-225-5322 (CALLFCC).

ARRL SEEKS CHANGES TO CW WAIVER RULES

The ARRL has asked the FCC to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met, prior to granting examination credit.

Under the League's proposed changes, a candidate at least would have to attempt the CW test - with any and all necessary accommodations - before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing.

In its petition filed September 23, the League said the two "rather minor changes" are needed to restrict the waiver process to use by severely handicapped individuals "for whom the process was intended in the first place and who deserve the substantive accommodation." The League also said the changes would "stem abuses" of the waiver system without putting unreasonable burdens on examiners.

The CW waiver system has been in effect for seven years. The League says that experience has shown that many applicants without severe handicaps "have abused the process" by obtaining physicians' certifications of inability to pass the telegraphy examination. At present, 8% of those applying through the ARRL-VEC have requested a medical exemption from the higher-speed code requirement. Another large VEC reports similar experience.

FCC rules required volunteer examiners to exercise broad latitude in administering CW exams to accommodate handicapped applicants. Instead, the League observed in its filing, there is "a tendency for applicants to seek exemptions instead" of accommodations.

As of press time, this petition had not been given a rulemaking (RM) number.

FROM W5YI REPORT

Look out Dell and Gateway 2000, here comes Wal-Mart! The nation's largest retailer (with 2300 stores) is jumping into the build-to-order computer biz. The computers will be built by ACE Micro Systems in Colorado Springs who are gearing up to produce 1000 PCs per day! An example of Wal-Mart's new pre-configured "Avail" PC is indeed impressive! An Intel Pentium-166 MMX, 16 MB RAM, 2-1/2" floppy, 1.7 GB hard dirve, 16X CD-ROM drive, stereo sound/speakers, 33.6K bps modem, mouse/keyboard/14" monitor is quoted at $996 (with 17" monitor: $1296.) Warranty: 1 year parts/labor with freight paid for repairs. Comes loaded with (mostly Microsoft) software. It remains to be seen whether consumers, small

businesses and large corporations will think of Wal-Mart when they need a PC.
(<http://wmonline.wal-mart.com>)

REPEATERS AND FREQUENCY COORDINATION

In the 1970s, FM repeaters suddenly took over the landscape in Ham Radio when it went from basically zero in 1970 to five thousand today (and I imagine that eight years ago it was four thousand, nine hundred and fifty). What happens today? You go to Ralph, your local frequency coordinator, and say, "Ralph, I need a frequency for my repeater" and Ralph just kind of says, "What elss is new?" Right? There aren't any.

So Ralph, your local frequency coordinator, he's empowered as a kind of a God now. He can hand out these frequencies - these frequencies that are worth millions and millions of dollars. Ralph controls them now. And Joe Ham, who's a repeater owner, carefully warehouses that spectrum. He doesn't use it much but he wants to be sure nobody can use it either, so he has his frequency coordination thing. Meanwhile, he goes to another channel that Ralph gave him so he can run his remote base on the mountaintop so he can call CQ DX.

But somebody else went up to a local mountaintop with a spectrum analyzer one day and they scanned two meters. And they noticed that "IO can't get a repeater allocation. Yet, if I scan this band and make a graph over twenty-four hours, I'll find that this band is maybe being used five percent."

There's something wrong here. So we're very busy organizing things so we can warehouse spectrum with closed repeaters that other people can't use. There's something wrong here, I think.

Now if you were a public policy maker, how would you feel about this? How would you react to the creation of this kind of a Service? Neither would I.

WIRELESS RADIO COMES TO THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NFL coaches are doing away with wired headsets. No longer will some kid get to carry the coil of wire.

A new two-channel digitally-encrypted Telex Radiocom wireless intercom system will let coaches communicate with offensive and defensive coaches on the sidelines and in booths above the field.

Sprint will provide the telecommunications while Telex provides the hardware. The new agreement requires that the Sprint logo appear on the headset with the Telex name on the microphone boom.

PairGain Technologies (Tustin, CA) has developed a technology that electronically enhances the quality and speed of copper lines. By using advanced digital signal processing techniques, the copper wire acts like fiber-optic cable. The technology can be used to get digital signals from the telephone company to the customer's residence or business which, at present, is all copper. It also can be used to deliver video over telephone wires. Lucent Technologies, the AT&T spinoff, is interested in acquiring the company.

Senator Faircloth (R-NC) has introduced legislation that would ban games from federal computers. He says a survey claims workers playing computer games cost billions of dollars a year in lost productivity. Games (like Solitaire) are included on government PCs to help users learn how to control the computer mouse. While some agencies are removing all games from their PCs, a Labor Dept. employee turned up more than 10,000 game sites with a simple Internet search. Software is now being tested that will monitor game playing. (Reported by CNN)

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

This should normally appear in a newsletter after Christmas. However, by the time of the next issue, Christmas will be passe and we will be looking more to the future. It is excerpts from a poem by Nick Strother, a free lance writer in Colorado.

Twas the night after Christmas and all through the place
any creature that stirred fell flat on her face.
We'd ripped open the treasures and ransacked the stocking.
The amount of goodies we ate was quite shocking.
No one knew how St. Nick had got in while we dozed
for the doors were all locked and the chimney was closed.
But we knew he'd been here and he didn't leave coal,
and 12 hours later, all the fun took its toll.
The children were nestled wherever they fell,
and Mommy and Daddy were feeling quite swell.
We had survived a fine Holiday Season
without losing our sanity, for some unknown reason.
Just 24 hours ago we all swore
we'd never re-enter another mall store.
"Not for any reason, wild horses can't drag
us back to those mobs," we'd been heard to brag.
"But Lord, did you see what Aunt Ethel has sent?
We can get something cool with the money she spent."
"These clothes are so lame," said the kids in a twinkling.
And I thought to myself, *what on earth was she thinking?*
So we fell asleep on couch, floor or beds,
while visions of super sales danced in our heads.
But most of the wonders we'd unwrapped were great,
though some of the shopping was done rather late.
Still we loved all the toys and the tools and the dresses,
but what I need now is some help with the messes.
The den has been trashed, the living room's missing.
The toddler just fell and her "owwie" needs kissing.
The kitchen may need some paint and some plaster.
The dinner, delicious, but the stove's a disaster.
And so as we bask in the Holiday glow
with all of the loved ones and friends that we know,
I'll repeat this again and get it just right.
Merry Christmas to all, and now please, kids, good night.

TREASURER'S REPORT
By Clyde Lee, K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1996	$5703.59
Deposits Year to Date	8540.22
TOTAL INCOME	**14243.81**
Expenditures	8512.76
BALANCE AS AT 11/30/97	**5731.05**
FEMA Escrow	2363.75
BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS	**$3367.30**

NOVEMBER MEETING
By Marty WD4JNM

Meeting opened by President Bud Hughes, K4CWG at 1910 hrs. After Pledge and introduction of members and guests, Matt KE4NYM told about his tour of the Ten-Tech plant in Sevierville, TN. Ten-Tech is the only manufacturer in the USA that makes all their own parts and fixtures. Matt highly recommends the tour to any member who happens to be in the area.

Chuck from the Jaycees asked for the clubs help with communications at the Christmas parade to be held on December 6. Warren AF4EA agreed to act as chairman. Members willing to help should meet at Miracle City Mall around 3 PM.

Bud K4CWG asked for discussion on collecting $100 owed by one of the members for equipment he purchased from the club. Motion made by AF4EA and seconded by KT4CQ to proceed to collect the money due by going to small claims court. Motion made by KE4AEB and seconded by KE4RIV to ask the member involved to resign from the club if he does not pay the $100 balance. Motion carried by a 47 to 3 vote. A certified letter will be sent outlining the clubs decision.

After motion and discussion, the club voted not to charge the family of a member who has become a silent key any commission or expense for selling off that silent key'sham gear.

Clara, KE4YQL. the appointed Election Officer, conducted the election of officers and board members for 1998. The new slate of offices:

President:	K4CWG Bud Hughes
V. Pres.:	W4EPU Pike Abell
Secretary:	KE4ITX Nancy Marsden
Treasurer:	K4EOS Clyde Lee
Board:	KE4ZPA John Renninger
	KC4UUX Alan Marsden
	W4VQB Bob Nedimyer
	AF4FX Butch King

Officers and board members will be installed at the Christmas party on December 20

There were 76 members and guests present at the meeting.

FOR SALE
IBM COLOR SCANNER
FULL PAGE
AUTO DOCUMENT FEED
NEW, $100.00
WILL CONSIDER
REASONABLE OFFER.
PIKE W4EPU - 269-4208

FOR SALE
ICOM 1C-AE AIRCRAFT HT
5 WATTS - 108 - 136 MHZ
W/MANUAL, SOFT CASE AND
WALL CHARGER.
LIKE NEW CONDITION.
$175.00
CLYDE K4EOS - 267-9375

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 272 (203 regular, 64 family, 5 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: AF4GH CHARLES SUMMERS
KU4LA JOE TIPTON
KC7TSG WILLIAM NORRIS
KS4YH JOHN TOWERS

RENEWALS: KE4BBP BUBBA STITT
KF4BRL ERIC HEARD
AF4DP BERNIE FLANAGAN
AA4FY NORM FOSTER
KF4IGO JUNE FOSTER
KD4GPF JOE MEYERS
W9IOS BILL KARR
W9JLT BRIAN SONNENGERG
K4KON BRUCE HOOVER
W2STS JESS LEGRAND
K4VTY DAVE SPRINGER
KD4UZS JOE CARTER
KC4VIO JOSE RAMOS
KC4VIN CAROL RAMOS
K4WSE JOHN WOOD

HAMFESTS:

12/6	Okeechobee
12/6	Ocala
12/13	Lake City

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!